

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 321 – SB 855

April 8, 2009

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006165): Deletes all language after the enacting clause and creates a process by which a foster parent may report failure by the Department of Children's Services (DCS), an employee of the Department, an agency contracted with the Department, or an employee of that agency to follow the tenets behind foster parents' rights when the failure has harmed or could harm the child or has inhibited the foster parent's ability to meet the needs of the child. DCS must provide copies of all written requests for formal reviews and the responses made by DCS to the Commission on Children and Youth within 10 days of each being made. DCS must submit a plan for training employees of the provisions of the bill by October 1, 2009, to the Select Committee on Children and Youth.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$2,000/One-Time
\$100,200/Recurring

Increase Federal Expenditures - \$23,000

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Federal Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- The Department of Children's Services will not incur a significant increase in expenditures to administer the reviews and interviews with foster parents, employees, and contracted agencies as necessary to meet the provisions of the bill as amended. Any cost can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

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- The Commission on Children and Youth will receive copies of the requests and responses between the foster parent and DCS resulting in a not significant increase in expenditures. Any cost can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a more stylized, connected manner to the middle initial "W." and the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml